

321 The shell is cut along the section lines with the turtle-shell cutting implement (*taka*) or with a similarly shaped implement made from *punga* coral (*taka punga*). The edge of the blade is rubbed back and forward along the division line judged with the eye. A scratch is soon made on the macreous surface of the shell. By further rubbing along this scratched line and by the addition at frequent intervals of water and sand, if the cutting implement is turtle bone, a narrow groove is formed which is finally deepened until the shell is cut through. A cut section of shell is shaped by rubbing and grinding with coral stone and water. Later the shape of a hook is filed out by the use of the shark skin rasp (*kinawa*).

To smooth the outer convex surface of pearl shell, the shell is rubbed on a large piece of *punga* coral placed on the ground in front of the worker. Water is used copiously on the rubbing surface. At intervals the shell is dipped into a bowl of clear water or the surface of the shell is rubbed with the fibrous end of a ripe pandanus leaf to test the sheen and the stage of polishing reached. When the worker is satisfied that he has procured the desired color, he gives the surface of the shell a final polish by rubbing it vigorously with a dry pandanus leaf.

Lashing or suspension holes are made in shell pieces by the use of the pump drill. Informants could suggest no ceremonial use in the manufacture of pearl-shell ornaments or composite hooks.

321 - The shark-skin rasp is prepared as follows:

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281 The skin of a freshly killed fish is submerged in fresh water for about eight days. The skin is pugged out in the sun with wooden pags until thoroughly dry. It is cut into pieces of suitable length and attached to a forked branch. A piece of skin that is flat longitudinally and transversely is attached to a branch to make the *kinawa elo* used for smoothing and polishing fishhook shanks. For the *kinawa* swags which is used to cut out the curves of composite hook points and the bend of a single-piece hook, a piece of shark skin is scraped on the fleshy surface to remove the stiff membrane. This allows the skin to curl transversely and produces a file, round in cross section (fig. 23b).

Shark skin is used for all purposes where a coarse abrasive is needed. The tail of the black ray (*wei kow*), also used as a file in the manufacture of pearl shell, is preferred by some because it lasts longer than shark skin.

CANOE CONSTRUCTION

501 Two types of canoe are used in Pukapuka today. One, the simple, one-piece, dugout canoe, is used for fishing inside or outside the reef. The other, a plank canoe with washstrakes and bow and stern covers, is used for fishing and for making expeditions to the islets of Ko and Kotawa. Canoe making is a craft still very much alive in Pukapuka and most households possess two or more canoes, one a dugout, the others larger plank canoes.

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322 The single-piece dugout (*poti pukama*) does not seem to be an old style canoe. The only name for it is *poti*, a word probably derived from the English word boat; if this derivation is correct, it is evidence in support of informants' contention that the canoe style is new. Informants suggested that formerly there were not sufficient big trees on the atoll to enable craftsmen to make single-piece canoes. The *poti* in use today is a simple hull balanced by outrigger and two cross beams.